The Constellation Shine in the Sky

Sakae Kusama

From the manga: The Constellation Shine in the Sky, 2007

PresenceDear

PresenceDear

GBamber

PresenceDear & RockCJ

Special thanks to RockCJ

Notes

Page 007

Studio Alta is a well known store with giant television screens outside. It's a popular meeting place in East Shinjuku (shopping district) as well as a tourist attraction.

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Shinjuku is one of the 23 municipalities in Tokyo. It's a densely populated commercial area that attracts many tourists.

Touhohu is the North Eastern region of Japan's Honshu island. It's a rural area with extremely harsh winters. Urbanites often look down on the inhabitants of Touhoku as "country bumpkins."

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The Touhoku dialect ("touhokuben" or pejoratively "zuuzuuben") often sounds dumsy, slurred and low class to speakers of standard Japanese ("hyoujungo"). A common feature is pronouncing the "s" sound like "z". For example "obandesu" (the hyoujungo equivalent is "konbanwa") is pronounced "oban dezuu". Other features include "-be" or "-bee" to indicate the volitional and substituting "sa" for the particle "n" or "e".

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The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, located in West Shinjuku (the business district) is one of the tallest buildings in Japan. An observation deck on the 45th floor provides visitors with a panoramic view of the city of Tokyo.

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Nichoume is Shinjuku's gay district.

BBC BE-BOY COMICS

THE CONSTELLATION SHINE IN THE SKY

SAKAE KUSAMA

The constellation shine in the sky The constellation shine in the sky The constellation shine in the sky

"White Days White Nights"

The Constellation Shine
in the Sky

OH
I SAW SWEAT APPEAR ON HIS BROW...
THAT'S MY COMPANY. SO I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY.
...AND HIS FACE GREW PALE.
THIS MAP WON'T HELP YOU.
PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF!
I JUST NEED DIRECTIONS!

TROUBLE...?
It's no problem...
OH
YOU'RE APPLYING FOR A JOB?
HUH?
chou Conti
YEAR. SECOND INTERVIEW (SURFACE DESIGN)
Company Headquarters, 3rd floor, Conference Room One
before 1:30 pm
(e Map)
RUN!
We're in trouble now!

I'D CALL IT

KUZE LOST HIS COOL?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT
IT'S TRUE
I...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HEADING BACK NOW
STARTLED
YIKES!
KUZE!
A HEART-WARMING EPISODE
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

I JUST CAME TO BUY SOME HOT TEA
OH
I BOUGHT SOME FOR YOU
IT'S LUKEWARM!
Just tell me the truth. You were warming yourself with it.
Sorry, I was holding it but it's cold in here.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
CLANG
THERE'S A PHOTO SHOOT FOR A BROCHURE.
WHAT'S GOING ON AFTER THIS?
WE'RE GOING OUT AFTER THIS I GUESS I'LL BUY ANOTHER ONE THEN

"THE STARRY SKY RIGHT BELOW YOUR EYES!!"
OH, THOSE CONDOS?
YES
THE AREA IS ILLUMINATED BY THE BUSINESS DISTRICT, SO IT'S PITCH BLACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
And it's a ghost town on the weekends
The best time for photos is right after twilight.
I PROMISE I WON'T TELL!
Shhh!

I HAD THEM BRING THE EQUIPMENT FOR THE CAMERAMAN EARLIER
GOOD
CRAP IT'S GETTING DARK
WHAT?
ALTA, THAT IS
THAT REMINDS ME DID YOU EVER GET TO SEE IT?
YOU MENTIONED IT WHEN YOU JOINED THE COMPANY.

YOU WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE YOUR FIRST WEEKEND IN TOKYO
?
WASN'T THAT SHINJUKU JUST NOW?
UH...
IN THE SUMMER, I USED TO PASS BY ALTA WHEN I WAS MAKING MY ROUNDS
WE COULD JUST TAKE A LITTLE LOOK?
YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE FUN OF ME BECAUSE I GREW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TOHOKU...?
YAGINUMA-SAN

PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I
HEY!
GRAB
ALL THESE PEOPLE...!
IT'S LIKE A SAUNA IN HERE. I WISH I COULD TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF.
YEAH.

ONE BEHIND HIS EAR AND TWO ON HIS NECK—
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
OH!
RATTLE
RATTLE
HE'S SO PALE THAT HIS FRECKLES REALLY STAND OUT

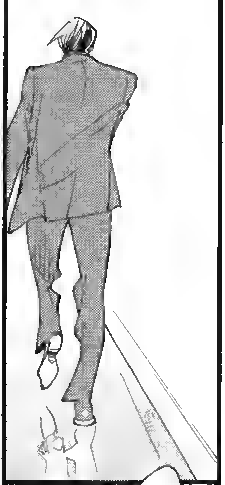
WHY...?
NOW, NOW...
EVEN IF I GIVE IT MY ALL I CAN'T DO IT RIGHT HE'S JUST THE NEW GUY...
...YET HE'S SO DAMN SURE OF HIMSELF!
If I lose my hair looking after the new guy, I'm getting workman's compensation!
BUT KUZE HAS WORKED OUT WELL FOR YOUR COMPANY
HE'S KINDA COLD BUT THIS YEAR'S NEW RECRUIT REALLY DOES EVERYTHING WELL
REALLY?
SOMETIMES HE SLIPS UP. IT'S INTER-ESTING

HE'S GOT NO SENSE OF DIRECTION
SOMETIMES, HE SPEAKS WITH AN ACCENT
THAT'S BECAUSE HE LIKED TV AS A KID
HUH?
Oh.
KUZE EVEN WENT TO COLLEGE IN TOUHOKU, DIDN'T HE?
STILL, I GET THE FEELING THAT HE'S NEVER MISPRONOUNCED A WORD IN HIS LIFE...
HE SAID SO WHEN HE JOINED THE COMPANY
WHEN HE MOVED TO TOKYO, HE WANTED TO VISIT SHINJUKU!

AND IF SOMEONE SAYS "SHINJUKU", YOU THINK "ALTA-VISION"
NATURALLY
After that you think "Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building"
USUALLY, PEOPLE GO TO KABUKICHOU FOR THE SEX INDUSTRY!
SEX SERVICE?!
HE'S INTO STUFF LIKE THAT?!
I DON'T THINK SO, BUT...
SHINJUKU, HUH?

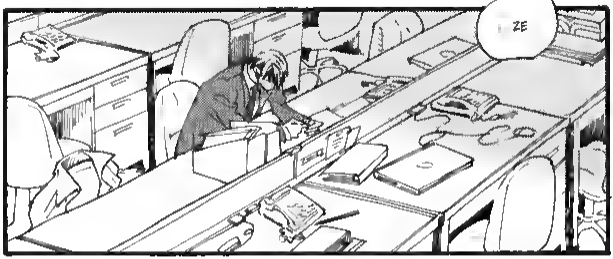
WELL...
I'D BE MORE WORRIED IF HE'D SAID NICHOLME...
WHAT'S THAT AREA LIKE?
MECCA?!
Don't get fixated on landmarks!
IT'S A GAY MECCA!

AH
HEY!
KU



HE'S
?!
NOT G-GAY
WORSHIPPING IN MECCA OR ANYTHING

Sorry, Yagiyama I'm just saying.
Hey, calm down...


ZE

ARE YOU OKAY?
SHARIMIKO

I JUST DOZED OFF
HERE'S SOME COFFEE
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
AND... I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING
THANKS FOR THE MESSAGE.

WHAT
IS IT?
I
I THINK
I LOST OZAKI-
SAN'S BUSINESS
CARD
Are you mad?
?
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
Sigh
HE
DIDN'T
GET TOO
ANGRY
What a relief!
SURE
HERE IT
IS
IF YOUR
DESK WASN'T SO
MESSY, YOU
WOULDN'T LOSE
THINGS!
OH

MAYBE HE'S GOT MORE UNDER HIS CLOTHES...
IF HE REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ALTA..
THEY'RE ONLY IN HARD-TO-SEE PLACES
MORE FRECK-LES...
I WONDER IF HE KNOWS SOMEONE IN MEGGA OR KABUKICHOU?
DO THEY CONTINUE DOWN HIS BACK?

!
SMACK
I DON'T LIKE BEING TESTED!
HUH ?
BATTLE
OH!
YAGINUMA, WATCH YOUR HAND!
HUH?
WHAT'S UP WITH KUZE TODAY?

WHY IS HE DRINKING SAKE WITH THAT SULLEN LOOK ON HIS FACE?
Oh.
PUT MY MIND AT EASE
I hear him coming!
ME? WHAT DID I DO?
IS THE LAST TRAIN LEAVING NOW?
YES
Oh!
Is the bathroom on the right?
DON'T WE TAKE THE SAME LINE?

#2
LAST TRAIN NOW DEPARTING
THIS AFTER-NOON
SCREECH!
I MADE YOU SPILL COFFEE ON YOUR HAND...
I'M SORRY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
MINE IS THE THIRD STOP. IT'S FAIR.
Here...
Hahaha! So am I!!
YAGINUMA-SAN.

I...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
...DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ALTA IN SHINJUKU
...SO...
...THAT'S HOW IT IS. I'M SORRY.
PSSCH!
...OR GO TO KABUKICHOU...
CLACK
RATTLE
...OR EVEN GO TO THE TOP OF TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING

EXCUSE ME
STEP
STEP...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RUMBLE
I WONDER
sigh

THAT WAS THE LAST TRAIN!
HUH?
Mecca?
NICHOUME?
I WONDER IF ANYONE HAS SEEN YOUR BACK...
MY BACK?
DID YOU GO TO MECCA?
HUH?

DON'T SHOW IT TO ANYONE...
...OR LET ANYONE TOUCH IT
AS YOUR BOSS, I CAN'T INTERFERE...
AH...
NO, I'M SORRY...
...THAT I TOUCHED YOUR NECK SO STRANGELY..
IT'S SEXUAL HARASS-MENT.
SEXUAL HARASS-MENT..?
IF I TRACED...

...THE FRECKLES ALONG YOUR NECK AND BACK WITH MY FINGERNAIL...
...THE SCRATCH MARKS THAT CONNECTED THEM WOULD TURN RED...
...AND I THOUGHT...
It is sexual harassment!
...SURELY IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A CONSTELLATION.
I'LL NEVER...
GO TO NICHOLME.
HUH!

IT WAS CHANCE
THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME DIRECTIONS...
...BY CHANCE TURNED OUT TO BE MY BOSS.
IT'S ENOUGH TO DREAM...
...OF MY NEXT CHANCE

AH!
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS?
KISSING A MAN...
I'M OKAY WITH ANYTHING...
I doubt you'll be okay with it, but...

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T KISS IT JUST FONDLING MY BACK IS PERVERTED
IT'S TOO LATE TO MAKE A FUSS ABOUT YOUR BACK NOW...
ENOUGH ALREADY...
STEP
STEP
We're in his blind spot
Perhaps...
WE'RE CLOSING UP NOW...

The Constellation Shine in the Sky / END